

Library Profile - Penn State

by Joyce L. Ogburn (Head, Ordering Section)

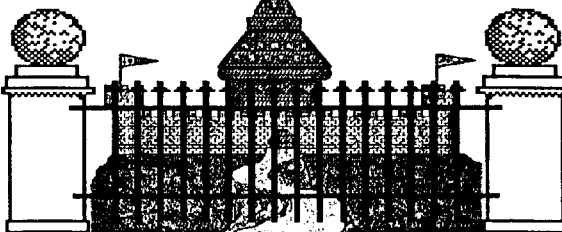
Institution profile: Penn State is a land grant institution often described as the one university geographically dispersed. Penn State supports twenty-two campuses scattered across the commonwealth. Contrary to what one might infer from the name Penn State, the University is considered "state related," not state supported, since less than one quarter of expenditures come from the state. We have just completed a \$350 million capital campaign effort to support the programs of the university.

Library profile: Pattee Library supports the humanities, social sciences, business, and life sciences collections at the main campus, University Park. University Park also maintains separate branch libraries for other sciences (4), undergraduate collections, and architecture. Various departments house small collections at University Park, but they are supported only in part by the library system, if at all. Each campus location also has a library which reports both to its campus administration and the library administration. Librarians have faculty status and participate in faculty governance. Penn State is a member of RLG, OCLC, and the Pittsburgh Regional Library Center. The current organization of the Libraries is structured around three divisions: IAS (Information Access Services), CRS (Collection and Reference Services), and PAS (Planning and Administrative Services).

Acquisitions profile: Acquisitions resides in IAS, along with Cataloging, Access Services, and the campus libraries. Ordering,

receiving, cataloging, and processing of library materials are centralized at the main campus at University Park. Bibliographic Processing, a section of the Cataloging Department, performs pre-order searching.

Acquisitions comprises two sections, Ordering and Receiving, which handle both serials and monographs. Approval plans and exchanges operations are located in Ordering, while the



gifts program resides in Receiving. Acquisitions has responsibility for managing the twenty acquisitions budgets, in consultation with collection development administrators. Staff in Receiving handle bibliographic control of serials and maintain serials holdings information in the online catalog.

Five librarians oversee the acquisitions functions. Their positions are: Chief, Acquisitions Department; Head, Ordering Section; Head, Receiving Section; Acquisitions Librarian, Approval Plans and Gifts; and Preservation Librarian/Serials. The preservation responsibilities have just recently been assumed by an Acquisitions Librarian, although preservation functions are distributed throughout the Libraries.

The Libraries rely heavily on approval plans for domestic and

foreign materials. In contrast, the Acquisitions exchange program is relatively small. However, Penn State does support institutions in Africa by sending gifts, withdrawals, and duplicate receipts.

Most ordering and receiving functions operate in a manual environment. We use Faxon's LINX SC-10 system for serials check-in and we take advantage of the online ordering systems of NTIS, UMI, and Information on Demand. We are exploring Faxon's new ABACIS system for ordering out of print materials. The gifts area uses a micro-based version of our online system to download records and create lists, and employs various other software packages for tracking gifts of materials as well as gifts of money. Other units of Acquisitions utilize commercial software packages to analyze and manipulate data in support of their various functions.

Collection development profile: CD responsibilities are dispersed among the librarians in all divisions. At University Park, almost all librarians are selectors in a given subject area. At the branch campuses, the head librarian is responsible for collection development. The Coordinator for Collection Development serves in the Collections and Reference Services Division of the Libraries. Humanities and social sciences subject selectors at University Park are aligned in subject clusters with leaders. One selector functions part-time as coordinator of the clusters. Science and

continued on page 42

Library Profile

continued from page 14

technology librarians manage their own branch libraries and function as an independent "cluster."

Automation profile: LIAS (Library Information Access System), locally developed, is the Libraries' online catalog, and supports cataloging, circulation, fund accounting, and electronic mail. MicroLIAS, an IBM PC-based version of LIAS, can be used to create and maintain databases by downloading records from LIAS or by manual input of data. Recently Acquisitions implemented the Fund Accounting control System (FACS) of LIAS, which allows online access to and manipulation of acquisitions budget data for twenty library locations. FACS is available to all collection development personnel and library administrators. Library Computing Services, part of Penn State's computing division, is in the process of migrating LIAS from Honeywell to DEC computers. When this project is completed, LIAS development will focus on the acquisitions component. Library personnel work closely with Library Computing Services in developing and implementing each LIAS component. ☞

And They Were There

continued from page 36

For librarians, Frankfurt could be an important experience. You can meet with book suppliers from many countries. There is a librarians/booksellers meeting area reserved for this purpose. You can talk to the top people in larger publishing houses (by appointment only, and usually for just a few minutes), expressing your views on issues of professional interest. You can see, by country, what is being published. There are halls devoted to art books, children's books, and other specific subjects. For anyone with an interest in the book world, and I do mean world, Frankfurt is a worthwhile experience.

****Some tips on attending the Frankfurt Book Fair****

Hotels are full for miles around, and prices go up about 25% for the duration of the fair. The Book Fair office can help find private home accommodations in and around Frankfurt. Many people stay in Weisbaden or Heidelberg, which are less than an hour away by train. Moderately priced hotels in Frankfurt are about \$125.

Germany, indeed all of Western Europe, is expensive. Restaurant prices are comparable to better restaurants in large US cities.

Busses and trams run to the fair, and cost about one dollar. Taxis are comparable to prices in the States.

There are 10 halls the size of a typical ALA convention. You will do a lot of walking. People wear business attire at the Fair. The weather is comparable to our northeast in October. Don't arrive the day before the Fair; give yourself a couple of days to get over jet lag. The Fair will exhaust (and exhilarate) you. ☞

The Nemesis

continued from page 12

Schools, non-profits and government agencies get a price break: \$95.00. \$495.00 outside North America (Only \$8.33 per issue more for foreigners — have they been watching the British or what?) and a special corporate price of \$200.00 each for 10 or more subscriptions. Hey Katina, take a page from this group, break our newsletter down by "type" of subscriber and you could really make some money on *Against the Grain*. For 12 pages (this first issue's size) 12 times a year (144 pages in all) the bargain rate for Europeans et. al. works out to \$3.44 a page. There are lots of quotable quotes in the *Newsletter* and they fit all sizes. ☞

Some Thoughts

continued from page 23

opted out of some years ago when schools of library science became trade schools imparting only vocational training. The obvious and natural avenue of re-entry is to address the problems and relationships of the organization and management of the products of scholarship across space and time in a scholarly way. The obvious and natural time for re-entering the realm of active scholarship is now, a time when scholarship is in a fundamental disarray.

As the first step, I submit that a small cadre of like-minded book people, prepared to commit to the long, arduous and often discouraging course which this transformation of the role of scholarly librarianship and of the scholarly enterprise will require, band together in a committee to formulate a position and an action program aimed at bringing this transformation about. The Charleston Conference has proved itself to be an enduring gathering of book people prepared to consider and investigate radical departures from the presently accepted dogmas of librarianship and the place of libraries. I submit that a handful - 8-12 - of people who have over the years proved themselves to be the backbone of the Conference gather together to explore the way to proceed.

